

Application Serial No. 09/994,633
Amendment dated August 16, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 19, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 through 10 and 12 through 17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, and 10 are amended herein. Claims 2 and 11 are cancelled herein. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 6, 10, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Fa. US 6,714,947 in view of the Hudetz et al. US 6,199,048. The rejection is traversed to the extent it might apply to the claims as amended. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim 1 has been amended to include substantially the recitation of claim 2, indicated to be allowable. Claim 1 is thus submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and adds additional distinguishing elements. Claim 6 is thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 10 has been amended to include substantially the recitation of claim 11, indicated to be allowable. Claim 10 is thus submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 15 depends from claim 10 and adds additional distinguishing elements. Claim 15 is thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 2 through 5, 11, and 12 contain allowable subject matter, and the allowance of claims 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, and 17.

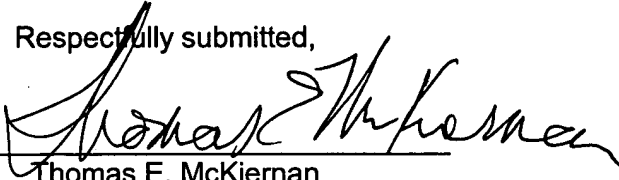
Conclusion:

Claim 1 has been amended to include substantially the recitation of cancelled claim 2, and claim 10 has been amended to include substantially the recitation of cancelled claim 11, as discussed above. All of claims 1, 3 through 10 and 12 through 17 are thus submitted to be in condition for allowance. Allowance of all claims 1, 3 through 10 and 12 through 17 and of this entire application are therefore respectfully requested.

Application Serial No. 09/994,633
Amendment dated August 16, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. McKiernan", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas E. McKiernan

Reg. No. 37,889

Attorney for Applicants

ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK

Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: (202)783-6040

2769-116-amd